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MICHAEL S. TURRINI

EDITOR

FIFTIETH (50TH) ISSUE

● NCNA HEADS AND TALES

The Official Publication of the
Northern California
Numismatic Association

**MOTTO - TO PROMOTE AND TO SERVE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATICS**

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"Fiftieth Issue"

January 1994

Volume XIV----Number 1

● Editor

Michael S. Turrini

NCNA Heads and Tales
PO Box 4104
Vallejo, CA 94590

NCNA
PO Box 1213
Millbrae, CA 94030

All Correspondence and Business, Except for NCNA Heads and Tales, Mail
To The Association's Millbrae Post Office Box.

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--NO LISTING OF 1994 OFFICERS--

READ NOTICE ON PAGE 3

● DEADLINE FOR FIFTIETH-FIRST ISSUE-----April 1

THE MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends,

1994 has begun, and with it also commemoratives coinages. Wandered in the Wilderness, lived in famine, and been without for nearly three decades, these past twelve years have been the Promised Land. Correct?

The national numismatic publications announce in each issue new proposals; another bill regularly as clock-work passes the pork barrel Congress, and three Presidents without ceremony nor thought dutifully sign same into law. But For What?

Yes, we all in this hobby want commemoratives. Thirty years without is enough argument. The fine program of our northern neighbor, Canada, is a just comparison. This greatest nation on Earth deserves it. The abuses and corruption of the classical commemoratives, 1892-1954, have been rectified, and it is the thing to have. Correct?

The local coin clubs, our national and regional organizations, the national hobby publications, and all of us are for commemoratives, and who is not, but for what reason?

We have, as has been warned before, begun an endless trail of ever more events, anniversaries, causes, and even the whims of each Representative and Senator, all five hundred thirty-five, to commemorate with another, not one but several coins, from the United States Mint.

Congress, lusting with its sovereign power over coinage, Representatives and Senators, lost in their own self-worth and determine to show the folks back home, the voters, their legislative achievements, and countless special interest groups, seeking only money, will combine this year, and in any year, to mint any number of commemoratives.

But, Your Editor asks, and thus warns, these simple truths: Have all those commemoratives profusely minted since 1982 created any new interest in coins? Has our coin hobby benefited in any popularity and public acceptance? Have the long delayed coinage design changes happen? Have new people been introduced to our local coin clubs and larger organizations? Has the media given coverage? Has the level of numismatic creativity and art risen in this country?

Finally, and most candidly, are you satisfied? Has this stampede of commemorative coins been what you wanted?

These questions are to remind and to cause critical debate. Just as famine did no good for thirty years, neither has this feast of the past twelve years been the Promised Land.

We know neither extreme is what is best, and we know from history that the reaction will again be the same, leaving our hobby no better but maybe worst, for the bitterness and disillusionment left from this repeated flood of commemoratives.

Numismatically Yours,

Michael S. Turripi
Editor

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GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

1994 Dues

Enclosed with this January 1994 Issue is your Dues Notice. Dues remain \$5.00 for Individuals and \$10.00 for Clubs. Prompt Remittance Is Asked And Appreciated.

1993 Election

Due to a delay and later cancelled Board of Directors Meeting, the ballots have yet to be tabulated. As provided in our Association's By-Laws, the five current Executive Officers shall continue to serve ad-interim. Official election results will be published in the May Issue of NCNA Heads and Tales.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Will be on "January 24th, Fourth Monday, 6:30pm, at Charlie Brown's, off I-80 near Powell and West Frontage, in Emeryville". Any Individual Member and Club Member, via each's Club Delegate, are invited to attend. The dinner session begins at 6:30pm with Board Meeting immediately thereafter. If you would like to attend, and as a courtesy, please telephone in-advance Dave Lange at '415-872-0295'.

There are about five Board Meeting within each year, and the dates of the next ones will be decided at this January Meeting.

Lange's Book Donation A Success

As announced in the September 1993 Issue of NCNA Heads and Tales, the Association made available FREE to Club Members, that is, coin club members of NCNA itself, one each David W. Lange's The Complete Guide to Buffalo Nickels. This offer has now expired and is no longer valid; these Club Members did participate:

Vallejo Numismatic Society	Sacramento Valley Coin Club
Fremont Coin Club	Fairfield Coin Club
Diablo Numismatic Society	Cupertino Coin Club
Solano Silver Round Club	Peninsula Coin Club
San Francisco Coin Club	San Jose Coin Club
Alameda Coin Club	

As can be read, there are solid advantages for local northern California coin clubs to belong to and to contribute to this Association. Read On.

Important

ANOTHR GENEROUS OFFER!!!!

Important

Those Club Members--coin club members of our Association paying their 1994 Club Dues (\$10.00)--may obtain FREE David W. Lange's just released The Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes!

The Association is offering to its Club Members only without charge, save remittance promptly of their 1994 Dues, this limited one-time opportunity to obtain David W. Lange's newest book. All that is required is written application, on the letterhead of the group and same signed by either the President or Secretary, plus punctual payment of 1994 Dues separately to the Association's Treasurer; refer to enclosed Dues Notice. Mail request directly to:

David W. Lange
Mercury Dime Book Offer
PO Box 190476
San Francisco, California 94119

Stipulations are simple. Only to current Club Members, not individuals, via written signed request. Only One Book, Please, Per Club.

Also, although there is no deadline yet announced, this offer will not last for very long. Please Remit Dues! Act Today!

Commemorative Wooden Dollar

To honor this Fiftieth (50th) Issue of NCNA Heads and Tales, a wooden dollar has been done, and one each is included. It is sent compliments of the Association and Editor, commemorating this milestone Issue, fiftieth, January 1994.

This is the second wooden dollar done. The first was for 1991, for April 1991 Issue, to commemorate the then Tenth (10th) Anniversary of NCNA Heads and Tales. Five hundred (500) wooden dollars were produced for that Issue.

Five hundred (500) wooden dollars were again produced; in brown and manufactured by Elbee's of San Antonio, Texas. Design by Your Editor.

Additional 1994 wooden dollars are for sale at 50¢ each plus SASE. Mail order with remittance to:

Gordon Donnell
1994 NCNA Wood
1960 San Antonio
Berkeley, California 94707

Offer To NCNA Individual Members

David W. Lange's two books, the Buffalo Nickel and Mercury Dimes titles, are discounted to Association Members:

Buffalo Nickels:	Softcover	\$20.00
	Hardcover	\$40.00
Mercury Dimes:	Softcover	\$25.00
	Hardcover	\$45.00

Prices include sales tax. Contact David W. Lange at post office box given on page 3, or at the several local Bay Area coin club meetings that he attends regularly.

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BRANCH MINT REPORTS: Club Happenings

Have been receiving bulletins, newsletters, or news releases from these coin clubs:

Livermore Valley Coin Club
Greater Houston Coin Club
Alameda Coin Club
Sacramento Valley Coin Club
Stanislaus County Coin Club
Solano Silver Round Club
Redwood Empire Coin Club
Napa Valley Coin Club
Fresno Numismatic Society
Peninsula Coin Club
Gateway Coin Club
Fremont Coin Club
Liberty Numismatic Society
Cupertino Coin Club
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
San Francisco Coin Club
Fairfield Coin Club
Vallejo Numismatic Society

Livermore Vallejo Coin Club Has MORE diverse drawings and contests than any club that Your Editor has read about! For the November 16th meeting, this Club held a 'Two-Part Program': First, Wheatie Race, "Teams race the clock to fill Whitman Coin Folders with Wheaties from big bags" and second, Ugly Coin Contest, "Let's see that coin you love to hate". The October 19th meeting also had a two-parter: Videotype on the recent American Numismatic Association (ANA) Convention and CHUCK WHITE talking on 'Collecting Gambling Tokens'. The September 21st meeting was talk on 'Irish Gun Money' by the LVCC's newsletter Editor; but, who is the LVCC's Editor? No name recorded.

Greater Houston Coin Club Was It Just Coincidence? The August Issue of the GHCC's Double Shift had a nice short article, 'Gun Money of Ireland' by BOB JONES. Interesting. BOB JONES noted a historical numismatic fact: "Did you know that Texas had its own form of Gun Money. In the Old West, when small change was scarce, the town's people used gun shell cases for change. Calibers below 45 were used as nickels, 45 calibers were used as dimes, and 50 calibers and larger were used as quarters". Although Houston, Texas is far from California, the GHCC actively exchanges its monthly Double Shift with any fellow coin clubs: "The Double Shift is being sent to coin clubs across the country on an exchange basis". Write to: "PO Box 2963, Houston, Texas, 77252-2963".

Alameda Coin Club Heard HANS HANSSON at its August 10th meeting speak on 'Cents', the coin, the penny, not what should be in your head! The ACC held its Annual Christmas Party last Friday,

December 17th, at Alameda's Bakers Square Restaurant. Due to relocation and time, ACC retired two long-time workers and boosters: WILLARD SPIERSCH after years as Treasurer and BOB STURN after years as Property Custodian.

Sacramento Valley Coin Club Earned a clear record \$708.50 in its Second Donation Auction held last October 13th. Eighteen members donated items with these donors having netted the most in total sales: first, GENE KNOWLES, twenty items, taking-in \$254.00, second, BOB and PATTI BANDI, at \$123.50, and third, CHARLES 'BEN' GAY at \$62.00. SVCC Editor BOB DECESARIS reported that 'BEN' GAY who is the Club's Auctioneer: "Your style and humor do make our auctions interesting week after week, with the 117th lot of the evening just as important and exciting as the first!". Exhibit winners at the SVCC Fall 1993 Coin-A-Rama were: JEFF SHELVIN, Best of Show, 'Toned Morgan Dollars', First Place, ED HOFFMAN, Military Payment Certificates', and Second Place, PATTI BANDY, Broken Bank Notes. Major change in the SVCC's 1994 meeting schedule: "the SVCC is scheduled to meet on the SECOND WEDNESDAY and FOURTH THURSDAY [changed from the Fourth Wednesday] throughout 1994 at the SMUD Service Center. The first meeting of the month will be an Educational Meeting in the FRONT ROOM (traditional meeting room); the second monthly meeting will be a REGULAR MEETING in ROOM B"; Room B is to the left side of the interior hallway. SMUD, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Service Center is located at: '5026 Don Julio Blvd., North Highlands, California'. Meetings begin at 7:30pm.

Stanislaus County Coin Club Elected its 1994 Officers; they are: DAVE HITZMAN, President, JERRY HEISINGER, Vice-President, HAL DEBOARD, Treasurer, and no Corresponding nor Recording Secretary announced. The SCCC meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the 'Odd Fellows Hall, 2314 Lawrence Street, Ceres, California'.

Solano Silver Round Club Elected its 1994 Officers: STAN TURRINI, President, JOE SIROIS, Vice-President, CRAIG BLACKWOOD, Treasurer, and JAN HENKE, Secretary. The SSRC took-in \$160.00 at its Quarterly Drawing last September 18th. The December 15th meeting was the SSRC's Annual Christmas Social held at Fairfield's Tony Romo's. The final revised mintage for the SSRC's 1993 medal in its Second World War Fiftieth (50th) Anniversary Silver Round Series is: 71. This Fifth Medal in the Series was designed by STAN TURRINI and remembers the Battle of Stalingrad, the Russian Front.

Redwood Empire Coin Club Important! Has voted to change its meeting date: effective November 1993 to the SECOND Wednesday. Time remains 7:30pm, and location remains Coddington Community Center, 1100B Coddington, Santa Rosa, two buildings left to Post Office. The RECC will announce and report upcoming shows and like information in its monthly newsletter; write

to: 'LEE GONG, RECC, 1211 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, California, 95401'.

Napa Valley Coin Club Has relocated its coin show: new site is the American Legion Hall, 1240 Pearl Street, downtown Napa, California, across from downtown shopping parking lot. Date remains Sunday, March 27, 1994. This year's will be the NVCC's Thirtieth (30th) Annual Napa Valley Coin Show. The NVCC continues to meet at the same site on the Third Wednesday of each month.

Fresno Numismatic Society Has relocated its monthly meetings to: 'Hope Lutheran Church, Room 23, 364 East Barstow Avenue, Fresno, California'. The FNS also has a new mailing address: 'PO Box 3743, Pinedale, California, 93650-3743'. September 14th heard DALE HEWLETT on Type Sets. November 9th meeting had PHIL PLETTNER did a last-minute program on the Carson City Mint. Last October 9th and 10th seven FNS members took a two-day trip and tour to the Old Carson City Mint coordinated by RUS STOLLING.

Peninsula Coin Club Has three Quizzes in each monthly newsletter: Quiz, SuperQuiz, and Super-DuperQuiz, all questions generated by FRED G. VAN DEN HAAK, its long-time Editor, who has only one volunteer to help! The PCC meets on the Second Monday of each month at: 'California Federal Savings, Community Room, 2180 El Camino Real, between California and Stanford Avenues, in Palo Alto, California'.

Gateway Coin Club Elected its 1994 Officers: LILA ANDERSON, President, JOEL ANDERSON, Vice-President, BEVERLY HILLS, Secretary, and RON LUND, Treasurer. The GCC continues to meet on the First and Third Thursdays of each month at: Glendale Federal Bank, 19th and M Streets, in Merced, California. THE GCC held a much different program at its November 4th meeting, 'Make Your Own Money Night', "Tired of the same old designs on your coins? Would you like to seek yourself on a coin? Here is your chance to make your own money. The Club will provide blank wooden nickels. You provide creativity and draw your own coins? Awards will be given for Most Original, Most Artistic, Most Coin-Like, Least Coin-Like, and Best Youth Entry". However, no record has been reported as to winners?

Fremont Coin Club Elected its 1994 Officers: VINCE "DR. VINNIE BAM BOO" LACARIERE, President, IRIS ATKINSON, Vice-President, JOHN FRANK, Second Vice-President, MICHAEL MATNEY, Treasurer, STEVE "NEVER MOVING" BOURG, Recording Secretary, ROGER LYLES, Corresponding Secretary, and ADRIANNA "ALWAYS RUNNING" BOURG, Junior Vice-President. The Club's Annual Installation Banquet will be Saturday, January 15, 1994 at Fremont's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant. Results of the competitive exhibits at the FCC's 1993 Show last August were: GLEN JACOB, The Ron Miller Award of Excellence, 'Idaho Centennial 1890-1990', BRIITA EHLERS,

First Place, 'Wooden Money of Oregon and California', DONALD BARSI, Second Place, 'Niles (California) Tokens', and CARL SNYDER, Third Place, 'Types of Paper Money of the South'. There were three participants at the November 19th Lincoln Cent Night: JOHN HUSTON, DENNIS OLSWANG, and ROGER LYLES.

Liberty Numismatic Society It was reported that LNS member PETER COLLIANDER spoke at the September 7th meeting on 'Cows': "His talk on 'Cows' was about the use of cattle as items of barter and their value relative to more conventional money. He then listed some coins which depict cows or bulls". The LNS's Annual Book Auction on October 5th earned a \$728.85 for the Society; the Auction was called by STEPHEN HUSTON.

Cupertino Coin Club Heard BOB TOPOR talk on "America's Most Beautiful Coin" at its November 12th; what coin was it? 1907 High Relief Roman Numeral Double Eagle. October 8th meeting was the CCC's Annual Youth Night coordinated by Youth Vice-President NATHAN MILLER. At the October 23rd Ninth Annual Banquet, five new Life Members were inducted: KEN BARR, WARNER WANDRY, SALVADOR GONZALEZ, HAL COLLARD, and MICHELLE STARR. A new CCC award was introduced at this Banquet, the first annual Presidential Awards went to: RON ISHIZAKE, AL LO, JENA PRITCHETT, KATHERINE RAY, BOB TOPOR, and RAY JOHNSON. Thirty-four (34) members enjoyed and ate well at the CCC's First September-Fest last September 10th with all the free food! The new meeting location and date for CCC is: 'West Valley Presbyterian Church, Parish Hall, 6191 Bollinger Avenue, in Cupertino, California, on the SECOND Friday at 7:30pm'.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Recent PCNS activities have been: September 22nd, Annual White Elephant Auction, October 27th, JERRY SCHIMMEL, 'San Francisco Brothel Houses and Tokens', November 24th, CALVIN J. ROGERS, 'More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About Tibet And Its Coinage', and December 22nd, Annual Christmas Party. The PCNS 1994 Officers were elected and installed at the December 22nd Annual Christmas Party: STEPHEN HUSTON, President, DON BURNS, Vice-President, FRANK STRAZZARINO, Secretary, and RICH WEBSTER, Treasurer. DON THRALL, Fellow of the Society, administered the Oath. To change the subject, PCNSers in active pursuit and competition collecting Golden Gate International Exposition (GGIE) are: FRANK STRAZZARINO, GORDON DONNELL, RICH WEBSTER, STAN TURRINI, DON THRALL, and Others, many Others! Each has one collectible the others do not!

San Francisco Coin Club First, the SFCC is selling the remaining silver and bronze medals left until March 1994. Available are: 1990 silver and bronze set at \$18.00, 1990 mule of the San Francisco Coin Club (SFCC) and Pacific Coast Numismatic Society (PCNS) silver at \$20.00, and 1991 silver and oxidized bronze set at \$20.00; mail orders accepted: add \$2.00 for first medal

or set and \$1.00 per additional medal or set. Mail orders with remittance in full to: 'SFCC, 2334 35th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94116'. The 1990 dated issues, SFCC only and SFCC and PCNS mule, were for the Seventy-Fifth (75th) Anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE), 1915-1990, and their design was from the commemorative Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) Slug of 1915. It is anticipated that the SFCC will not be doing another Club Medal for some years. Recent SFCC speakers have been: October 26th, JERRY SCHIMMEL, 'Barbery Coast Tokens' and November 23rd, CHUCK WHITE, 'Odd and Curious Money of Siam', reported that CHUCK "brought numerous examples of Boat Money, Tongue Money, Bullet Money, etc. An interesting talk with lots of humor". In other words, a typical 'Chuck-Talk'! The SFCC ended 1993 with a Pot-Luck Dinner at its December 28th meeting: turkey, ham, and dressing courtesy of HANS HANSSON. Elected to the SFCC's 1993 term were: ROGER SINASOHN, President, GORDON DONNELL, Vice-President, and HANS HANSSON, Secretary-Treasurer.

Fairfield Coin Club Held its successful Fourth (4th) Annual Fairfield Show last September 19th; exhibit winners were: RUSSELL LEACH, Peoples' Choice, 'American Silver Eagles', CHARLES L. WHITE, President's Award, 'A Selection of Olympic Coins', and dual Speakers' Awards, KEVIN V. MALOY, 'United States Military Payment Certificates' and WILLIAM SPENCE, 'Medallic Portraits of John F. Kennedy'. There were a record fifteen exhibitors. The FCC will hold its Fifth Annual Fairfield Coin and Collectibles Show this September 18, 1994 at a new location: Suisun Recreation Center, 586 East Wigeon Way, in Carl E. Hall Park, corner of Wigeon Way and Pintail Drive, in Suisun City, California. FCC with its neighbor, the Vallejo Numismatic Society, held its Seventh (7th) Annual Joint Christmas Party last December 18th at Fairfield's Anheuser-Busch Brewery. It is reported that several attendees drove distances to attend this event and that GORDON DONNELL won nothing and that STAN TURRINI won the second to last prize! Everyone attending received two wooden dollars, two elongates, a commemorative placemat, souvenir card, pen, and a 1982 Lincoln Cent Set, plus there were enough Door Prizes for everyone with extras! Several special presentations were bestowed at this Party: Non-Smoking Award to JAN HENKE, Joint Plaque to JOE SIROIS for his long service and support to the Annual Joint Christmas Party, previously honored persons have been STAN TURRINI and JAN HENKE, and Rich Neily Memorial Award, the Fairfield Coin Club's highest and most esteemed award, to CRAIG BLACKWOOD.

Vallejo Numismatic Society Elected its 1994 Officers: JOE SIROIS, President, DR. ROD BAKER, Vice-President, KEN SPINGOLA, Secretary, and STAN TURRINI, Treasurer. The VNS celebrated beloved and historic Mare Island Naval Shipyard at its October 6th meeting at the local Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum with a buffet dinner and hosted by RAY and LOUISE COSTA; members ate

their fill, toured the Museum, and shared Show 'n Tells on Mare Island, the oldest Naval facility on the West Coast, founded in 1854. Recent VNS meeting activities have been: September 1st, Hot Dog Night, barbequed on the steps of the Veterans' Memorial Building, November 3rd, Mercury Dime Night with DAVID W. LANGE, and December 1st, Annual Holiday Party. VNS has two important announcements for 1994: First, 1994 is the Society's Fortieth (40th) Anniversary, 1954-1994, and an Anniversary Banquet has been set for Saturday, April 23, 1994 at Jonesy's Steak House, Napa County Airport. An appeal is made for past members to contact the VNS; Banquet seating is limited to the first fifty. Second, the 1994 Vallejo Coin and Collectibles Show will be Sunday, May 1, 1994, note change from traditional last Sunday in April, at Dan Foley Cultural Center, Dan Foley Park, Tuolumne Street at End North Camino Alto, in Vallejo, California, hours 9:00am to 5:00pm. Free Admission and ample free parking and easy access into the Center. A full-day multi-event is planned: All Gold Coin Drawing, Exhibits, Bourse, Gifts for Youngsters, Speakers, Collector Meetings, Free Give-Aways, Wooden Dollars, and much more. Two groups have been confirmed to meet during this Show: the American Society of Check Collectors (ASCC) will gather in an informal session at 11:00am and the Northern California Wooden Money Collectors (NCWMC) will meet at 12:00 Noon. Also, and most important, ROBERT J. LEUVER, current Executive Director of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), will be visiting this Show, meeting and mingling with fellow coin hobbyists and possibly presenting a short presentation. With the Executive Director present, all ANA Club Representatives and District Delegates are urged to attend this Show. Bourse Coordinator is: 'CRAIG BLACKWOOD, PO Box 241, Elmira, California, 95625'.

Delta Coin Club Forgot To List Delta At The Start Of The "Branch Mint Reports"! If Your Editor does not include something, SYD KASS will write for sure! Active booster of the Delta Coin Club RUBEN SMITH, III, an award-winning and record-setting high school athlete at Stockton's Franklin High in the 1960's, was inducted into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame this November 17th. Special Thanks was noted in the DCC's Newsletter for extra effort toward the recent 1993 DCC's Show to: ELDEN ENZMINGER, LORIS ENZMINGER, CHUCK WHITE, and KEVIN MALOY. Request is printed for rare 1969 wooden nickels and 1976 half-ounce silver medals of the DCC; any available from readers? If so, contact the DCC: 'PO Box 216, Victor, California, 95253'.